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Ref: ER 399

1 April 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, GSUSA

Subject: CIA Weekly Summary No. 91

Reference: D/I, GSUSA Top Secret Memorandum, 29 March 1948, SD-8844

1. Ever since the close of hostilities in Germany, the food situation in the Ruhr has been described, in both official and unofficial reports, as more or less acute. To date, no information has been received by CIA that the shortage of basic rations has been completely solved.

2. The reports of the Military Government on the subjects of food and coal take approximately two months to reach CIA. Other official comments on the matter received during this time lag (see attached citations for examples) have, however, not contradicted earlier reports.

3. In view of the foregoing, CIA credits, and has as yet received no official data to discredit, a 21 March New York Times article from Frankfort quoting an official Ruhr MG appeal for an improved rationing system. According to the New York Times the appeal stated that:

a. the underground miners were getting less food than had been guaranteed;

b. the quality of Ruhr food during the past month probably had reached its lowest point in two years;

c. the normal consumer in the Ruhr had received no official meat ration for at least five weeks;

d. neither the underground nor the surface miner had received his full ration;

e. statistics of the Ruhr District Food Office showed that in January the underground miner received 3,640 calories daily out of 4,050 calories on the schedule, and that, despite some improvement in February, it is estimated that the ration did not exceed 3,800 calories a day;

f. these shortages had been caused by the failure to meet the normal consumer ration of 1,400 calories a day and the failure to meet the ration on the miners' supplementary workers card;

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g. during the last month the normal consumer ration amounted to only 1,350 calories a day, and in the more important areas, such as Essen, it was 1,135 calories a day;

h. items such as meat and fat, which are essential for the physical output of the worker and in the preparation of the workers' meals were almost entirely absent;

i. no meat has been called up in the Ruhr for at least five weeks for the normal consumer card nor on his workers supplemental card for at least five weeks.

4. Continued studies will be made on this subject.

8 - Dir 4-1 thru C.R.
R. H. HILLENKOPFER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

Attachment:

Citations (*w/ drawn from ER 399*)

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Central Records

Note for record: ER 399,
Memo to DCI, 30 Mar 48, 475165,
"Ruhr Coal Production" in dup
sent to C.R. for file on
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